

Rabbi Nina Perlmutter

As a rabbi, college instructor in Environmental Ethics and "Eco-theology", I am extremely disappointed about Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) plan to renew the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit (AZPDES) No. AZ0026387 for South32's Hermosa Project mine.

My understanding is that this Permit would allow for dangerous discharges of mine water to Harshaw Creek, Alum Gulch, and Sonoita Creek, threatening the health of local residents and the environment in violation of the Federal Clean Water Act and Arizona's laws relating to surface water quality. The issuance of the Permit is also contrary to ADEQ's own rules which require that ADEQ "act to protect the environment", promote "the protection and enhancement of the quality of water resources", provide for the "prevention and abatement of all water and air pollution"; and "[e]nsure the preservation and enhancement of natural beauty" in our state.

Please remember that your job is to enforce discharge provisions of the Clean Water Act in order to protect human health and the environment.

Please do not issue this permit and please keep me updated on all aspects of this permit process.

Rabbi Nina Perlmutter, Congregation Lev Shalom Flagstaff & Designated Jewish Contact for Grand Canyon National Park Jewish Programs